

# A MOUSE THAT 'SINGS.'

Man Who Caught It Says It Warbles Like a Canary.

Singing mice are rare, but a correspondent writes from Yorkshire asking whether we can give him any information about a specimen he captured.

He adds, "It has been warbling just like a canary for the last month in our workshop, and although I have it in a cage it still continues to sing."

That mice do occasionally "sing" is undeniable. Some observers say that their "song" is softer, sweeter and more delicate than that of the canary, which one can believe quite easily. Others go so far as to compare it to that of a warbler or even a piping bullfinch. But the question as to why they lift up their voices in this tuneful manner still remains to be answered.

Three explanations have been suggested:

First.—That all mice are potential vocalists and can learn to sing, by imitation, from singing birds.

Second.—That many mice possess an exceptional talent for mimicry, together with a keen sense of the ludicrous.

Third.—That some mice are subject to bronchitis and that the so called "song" is only the wheezing of rodents which suffer from the distressing complaint.

A certain amount of color is given to the last theory by the fact that a mouse which was caught by the neck in a wire trap not sufficiently strong to kill it "sang" while its throat was under compression, but never again during its subsequent life as a captive.—London Mail.

## JADE AS MEDICINE.

It is Used in Various Ways For Many Diseases in China.

Everything in China of any rarity whatever is certain to be dragged into the pharmacopoeia of the Chinese physician. Jade is no exception to the rule. It may be swallowed as a powder or in little pieces the size of hemp seed for various stomachic complaints. Even pockmarks and scars may be obliterated by being daily rubbed with a piece of pure jade. It is also considered to be of a moist nature, and we read of an imperial favorite of the eighth century who was cured of excessive thirst by holding a fish shaped jade in her mouth. And so when the tomb of the great commander, Ts'ao T'sao, third century, A. D., was opened 200 years after his death, among the usual objects found in such circumstances was a large silver bowl full of water. That the water had not dried up was accounted for by the presence in the bowl of a jade boy three feet in height.

Jade is chiefly brought from the K'un-lun, or Koulikun, range, between the desert of Gobi and Tibet; from Khoten or Ichi in Yarkand, and from Lan-tien, on the Belurtagh mountains, still farther to the west. In the tenth century, A. D., the latter was actually known as the Jade hills district, though it does not appear that any jade has ever been found there.—Professor Herbert A. Giles in Nineteenth Century.

## St. Patrick's Purgatory.

Medieval songs and legends, which are rich in all sorts of mythical and fantastical lore, locate the entrance to St. Patrick's famous "purgatory" on the island of Lough Derg, Ireland. The opening itself was through a cave, the existence of which was revealed to the saint by Christ, who informed the good Patrick that any one with the moral courage to go down into the cavern would be saved the pangs of the real "purgatory" after death. Patrick built a monastery at the entrance of his earthly "purgatory" and secured the way to the pit by an iron gate provided with strong chains and locks of peculiar and intricate workmanship. Lough Derg, next to Jerusalem, was the most celebrated spot on earth during the middle ages. Thousands visited "purgatory" every year, and the whole island had the appearance of a populous city.

## Reversible Snakes in India.

A snake not often heard of, at least in America, is the liver colored snake with two heads, or perhaps they should be called mouths, though it does not have two mouths at the same time. They are reversible mouths, occupying the opposite end every six months. It lies with the two ends crossed on each other, as with folded hands. Every six months the change of the seasons reverses the functions of the two ends, the head becoming the tail and the tail becoming the head. The mouth at one end heals or closes up all but a small opening, while the opposite end becomes the mouth for the next six months.

## Breton Children.

The Breton children are pious, superstitious, stolid, strong, patient and very thorough. The girls are intelligent and interesting. They are the mainstays of the family. A child of ten undertakes to superintend both household work and the farm. The boys are more or less stupid, handsome, bronze faced country urchins. Bee culture seems to be the favorite occupation of the Breton boy. The insects will come at his bidding and will even cover him from head to foot without stinging.

## Tearing Away Wrath.

"I don't believe you love me any more," pouted she.  
"I couldn't," replied he.  
After thinking it over she smiled and told him she could make the same old dress do another season.—Houston Post.

## Could Not Guarantee Them.

"Have you any eggs?" inquired the customer.  
"Yes, sir," said the waiter. "I can bring you some eggs, but I want you to understand that this is a ten cent lunch

## Quickness is Relative.

The careful American observer soon finds that the standard of quickness is to be determined in England, as everywhere else, by the point of view. People who go slowly on new ground may turn out to be quick enough when wholly at home with any particular line of thought.

How odious and complicated, for instance, seems to an American observer the computation of pounds, shillings and pence! It seems strange that any nation should consent for a day to employ anything but a decimal currency. Yet with what lightning rapidity does a London bookkeeper make his computations! What a life of tedious formality seems that of an English house servant! Yet there was no slowness of intellect in that footman in an earl's family who, when his young lord fell over the banisters and the next of kin called to ask if the elder boy was hurt, answered promptly, "Killed, my lord!" thus accomplishing in an instant the transfer of the title appertaining to an earl's eldest son and heir only.—Thomas Wentworth Higginson in Atlantic.

## A Precious Manuscript.

There is now in St. Petersburg the oldest known MS. of the New Testament in Greek, saved from destruction by the merest chance many years ago. Crossing the hall of a convent at the foot of Mount Sinai, Constantine Tischendorf saw a basketful of parchment leaves on their way to be burned. Two baskets had already gone, he was told, and all that he could secure for himself was a small bundle of odd leaves. But the monks, now interested in the "waste paper," saved the rest from the fire, and nine years after, on a return visit to the convent, Tischendorf found that the steward had, wrapped in a red cloth, "a bulky kind of volume," which proved to be the whole of the New Testament, with parts hitherto unknown, and parts of the Old, which had long been sought. He begged the volume for the czar, and today it lies, well preserved in spite of its 1,500 years of age, among the treasures of the Russian capital.—London Mail.

## Testing a Horse's Eyes.

The unsuspecting farmer is often "bit" by the professional horse trader in having a horse with defective sight palmed off on him. The trader makes a John L. pass at the horse's eye with his fist, and the force of the air causes the horse to bat or blink his eyes, though he may be totally blind in one eye and weak in the other.

If the farmer will blindfold one of the animal's eyes and make gentle passes at five and ten feet from it, he can tell how strong the animal's sight is in that eye. Then blind the examined eye and go through the same process with the other.

This little hint may save you getting the "small end" of a swap.

## Hours and Luck.

As strong as the superstition of Friday is that concerning certain hours in European and oriental countries.

In Paris the superstition is so prevalent that an enterprising business is that of selling cards on which are printed the hours that should be avoided.

The famous Gambetta consulted a reader of cards as to the auspicious day for embarking on any important enterprise.

President Carnot was skeptical of such things, and he chose an unlucky hour for his journey to Lyons, where he was assassinated.—American Queen.

## Sir Roger de Coverley.

Ralph Thoresby, writing in 1717 of the family of Calverley of Colverley, Yorkshire, says: "Roger was a person of renowned hospitality, since at this time the obsolete tune of 'Roger a Calverley' is referred to him. He was a knight and lived in the time of Richard I." This passage carries the date of the origin of the tune back to about 1190. The Spectator in a description of Sir Roger, now called "de Coverley," says, "His great-grandfather was the inventor of the famous country dance which is called after him."

## A Matter of Doubt.

A minister in a certain city said: "My brethren, the collection will now be taken for my expenses for a trip, for I am going away for my health. The more I receive the longer I can stay." The largest collection ever made in that church was taken. And now the question under discussion is whether the size of the collection was a compliment to the preacher or much the reverse.

## Maxims For All Purposes.

"Remember, my son," said the prudent man, "that a penny saved is a penny earned."

"That's so," replied the reckless youth. "The trouble with me is that I am always getting hold of the wrong proverb. I was thinking, 'Nothing venture, nothing have.'"—Washington Star.

## The Terrible Boy.

The Mother—Eunice, was there any kissing in that pantomime you and the others were rehearsing in the parlor last evening? The Daughter—Why, of course. Herbert and I had to kiss, but it was in pantomime.—Johnny—No, it wasn't, mamma. I heard it!—Chicago Tribune.

## So Unsentimental.

May—Jane behaves like an old married woman already. Mand—Why, you can't get her to go anywhere without him. May—No; but she can call him up without kissing the phone.—New York Times.

The extravagance of a woman who spends a quarter for chocolate bonbons makes the man who smokes fifty cent cigars a terrible pessimist.—New

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SHERIFF'S SALE. — Essex Common Pleas Court, Frederick F. Lowenfeld vs. Charles A. Harrington, Pl. fa.

By virtue of the above stated writ of fieri facias, to me directed, I shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the Court House, in Newark, on Tuesday, the eighth day of March next, at two o'clock P. M., all that tract or parcel of land and premises situate, lying and being in the township of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey:

Beginning at the southwesterly corner of Glenwood and Linden avenues; thence running (1) along the southerly line of said Linden avenue north 69 degrees 30 minutes west 58 feet; thence (2) south 30 degrees 30 minutes west 100 feet; thence (3) south 69 degrees 30 minutes east 27 feet to said Glenwood avenue; thence along Glenwood avenue north 37 degrees 15 minutes east 105 feet to the place of beginning. WILLIAM C. NICOLL, Sheriff. (17.50)

Edwin A. Rayner, Att'y.

January 13, 1904.

ESTATE OF MARTHA AKERS, DE.

Pursuant to the order of JOSEPH W. ELLOR, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, on the application of executor of said deceased, given to the creditors of said "bit" to the subscriber under their claims and demands, from this date, or they will from prosecuting or reco against the subscriber. HALL

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## NOTICE.

### NOTICE TO OBJECTORS:

The map and report of the Board of Assessors of the assessment fixed by them for building and constructing a sewer in Grove Street, in the town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, have been filed in the Town Clerk's office, and are now open to public inspection.

Objections in writing to said report, map and assessment shall be filed with the Town Clerk on or before Monday evening, March 7, 1904, at eight o'clock, at which time the Town Council will meet in the Council Chamber in the Bloomfield National Bank Building at Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, to consider such objections.  
Dated, BLOOMFIELD, N. J., February 2, 1904.  
WM. L. JOHNSON,  
Town Clerk.

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